

## CLAIMS

### What is claimed is:

1. A method of linking a read only printer (ROP) to a CSN (Compact Service Node) platform at a telecommunication facility, said method comprising:  
identifying a physical location of an unassigned hardware port on the CSN platform where said ROP is to be connected;  
locating a first software identification for said unassigned hardware port in one or more program instructions for said CSN platform, wherein said first software identification indicates how said unassigned hardware port is labeled in said one or more program instructions;  
locating a second software identification in said one or more program instructions, wherein said second software identification indicates a destination where data to be printed during operation of said CSN are to be sent by said one or more program instructions; and  
modifying said one or more program instructions so as to link said second software identification with said first software identification, thereby allowing said one or more program instructions to recognize said unassigned hardware port as said destination for said data to be printed.
2. The method of claim 1, further comprising:  
connecting said ROP to said unassigned hardware port via a printer cable, wherein said printer cable is configured to transmit data from said unassigned hardware port to a data input port at said ROP.
3. The method of claim 1, further comprising:  
enabling an ROP entry present in said one or more program instructions, thereby activating printer capability of said one or more program instructions.

4. The method of claim 1, wherein said one or more program instructions are stored in a memory for said CSN platform.
5. The method of claim 1, wherein said CSN platform is a Lucent® CSN platform.
6. The method of claim 1, wherein said CSN platform is a Lucent® CSN-plus (CSN+) platform.
7. The method of claim 1, wherein said one or more program instructions are in the UNIX programming language.
8. The method of claim 1, wherein said unassigned hardware port is an RS232 port.
9. A telecommunication facility comprising:
  - a read only printer (ROP) having a data input port; and
  - a compact service node (CSN) having:
    - a hardware port configured to be connected to said data input port at said ROP via a printer cable, wherein said printer cable is configured to transmit data from said hardware port to said data input port at said ROP, and
    - one or more program instructions stored in a memory for said CSN, wherein said one or more program instructions are configured to have:
      - a first software identification linked with a second software identification so as to allow said one or more program instructions to recognize said hardware port as a destination for data to be printed during operation of said CSN, wherein said first software identification indicates how said hardware port is labeled in said one or more program instructions, and wherein said second software identification indicates said destination, and
      - an ROP entry enabled in said one or more program instructions, thereby

activating printer capability of said one or more program instructions.

10. The telecommunication facility of claim 9, wherein said CSN is a Lucent<sup>®</sup> CSN.
11. The telecommunication facility of claim 9, wherein said CSN is a Lucent<sup>®</sup> CSN+.
12. The telecommunication facility of claim 9, wherein said one or more program instructions are in the UNIX programming language.
13. The telecommunication facility of claim 9, wherein said hardware port is an RS232 port.
14. A CSN (Compact Service Node) platform at a telecommunication facility, wherein said CSN platform includes:
  - an RS232 port configured to be connected to a data input port at a read only printer via a printer cable, wherein said printer cable is configured to transmit data from said RS232 port to said data input port at said ROP; and
  - one or more program instructions stored in a memory for said CSN platform, wherein said one or more program instructions are configured to have:
    - a first software identification linked with a second software identification so as to allow said one or more program instructions to recognize said RS232 port as a destination for data to be printed during operation of said CSN platform, wherein said first software identification indicates how said RS232 port is labeled in said one or more program instructions, and
    - wherein said second software identification indicates said destination, and
    - an ROP entry enabled in said one or more program instructions, thereby activating printer capability of said one or more program instructions.
15. The CSN platform of claim 14, wherein said one or more program instructions are in the UNIX programming language.